

## **The EU Security Sector Reform Mission in Guinea-Bissau**

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The European Union's Security Sector Reform Mission in Guinea-Bissau, launched in June 2008 and closed down in September 2010, can be analysed as an example of external actors' intervention in what is perceived as a "threatening periphery". Frequently referred to as a "failed state", Guinea-Bissau had more recently showed signs of growing instability when it became a hub for drug trafficking from Latin America into Europe. This context of organised crime in a state which did not endanger cohesion amongst European partners motivated an intervention whose contents were mainly directed towards the restructure of the legal framework. Assistance to the local authorities in this particular field would allow for a reform of the security sector – thought to be increasingly problematic – yet results were far from the ones intended. This presentation analyses the reasons behind this mission and the discourse which accompanied it, emphasising in particular the implications of the portrayal of Guinea-Bissau as a "narco-state".